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FLOOR DEBATE

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added that to the IGT funds, intergovernmental transfer funds, to form this trust fund, and we have now been deriving about \$50 million a year, all going for healthcare cost and, like I said, will go into the next century if the future legislation...legislators agree with this premise. And so LB 548 relates to that Nebraska Health Care Funding Act. And, as you know, the Nebraska Health Care Funding Act is the mechanism the Legislature established beginning in 1998 to provide ongoing funding for healthcare in Nebraska, one of four states in the United States that took all of those dollars and put it for healthcare. I think that's one thing this...the state and certainly this Legislature should be proud of. The money, now \$50 million a year, comes from the tobacco settlement revenues and the Medicaid intergovernmental transfer, or IGT payments. By the way, the IGT payments will run off in 2008. They are slowly being diminished. LB 548 was introduced primarily to carefully protect this important funding mechanism for future generations in Nebraska. The bill deletes language permitting transfers from the Nebraska Medicaid Intergovernmental Trust Fund, to the Department of Health and Human Services Cash Fund, the Behavioral Health Services Fund, and the Attorney General Child Protection Cash Fund, and deletes absolute...obsolete language relating to transfers from the Medicaid Intergovernmental Trust Fund that have already been completed. The bill increases from \$2.5 million to \$3 million the amount of money of tobacco settlement revenues that are credited annually to the Tobacco Prevention and Control Cash Fund. LB 285A in 2003, a bill that Senator Landis set forward for Tobacco Prevention and Control Cash Fund, appropriated \$205,000 in General Fund dollars that have been going annually in 2004, 2005 to the Department of Health and Human Services for Tobacco Prevention and Control Fund. And really, what we have done is we're taking...we've increased from \$2.5 to \$3 million from that tobacco settlement dollars, as they come in, but we're not going to then go to the General Fund for the \$205,000 that we would annually produce. So really, we have increased that fund from two point...well, really, we've increased it by \$95,000. If you took 2.5 and \$405,000, that would be 2.905, so that's what we've done. LB 548 would provide that additional funding from the tobacco settlement revenues and the General Funds then would no longer be required. The bill requires that